

BRIDGE TEAM WORKING GROUP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bridge Preservation Program

Initiative: Update the bridge preservation program

Investigate appropriate preservation activities and funding level to extend the useful life of the bridge inventory. Balance the funding levels between replacement/rehabilitation/preservation and investigate alternate funding sources.

Team Members

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History:

Preservation activities such as deck sealing with epoxy, applying linseed oil to bridge parapets and decks, applying corrosion inhibitors to concrete decks, joint replacements, and others, have been a part of NCDOT's bridge maintenance activities for many years. These types of activities still continue on a limited basis.

Federal funds for bridge preservation were formally introduced in 2002, prior to this date bridge preservation activities were state funded. In 2003 NCDOT started a Federally funded preservation program with the setting aside of \$2,000,000 of TIP funds for bridges on the Federal-aid system. In 2006 bridge preservation activities for bridges off the Federal-aid system became eligible for Federal funds through a provision of SAFETEA-LU. Also in 2006 a State funded program was introduced for system preservation.

Results:

The following initiatives have been completed

1. Increased the annual bridge preservation Federal funding level to \$5,000,000 per year in the 2008-2015 TIP.
2. Defined the federally funded bridge preservation program activities and process.
3. Developed project prioritization and selection process.
4. Developed programmatic process for Federal NEPA compliance.

Future Considerations:

1. Implement a Bridge Management System (BMS) that is capable of identifying the most cost effective strategies and schedule for every bridge.
2. Utilize BMS to determine an appropriate funding level for preservation, rehabilitation and replacement.

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